

Dear FCC Commissioners & Staff:

Six years ago I started this business with a rack of ordinary dial-up modems and a bunch of phone lines from GTE. Of course at the time GTE was NOT offering an ISP service but shortly afterwards they too became a competitor in this marketplace.

Since then, we have switched from ordinary phone lines to digital PRI's (Primary Rate ISDN), and changed service to a CLEC with lower prices and better service.

As far a DSL is concerned, we don't offer it because the phone company doesn't offer a program to make it feasible for us to compete in the marketplace...this means that we are losing customers, either to Verizon for DSL or to the cable company, because more and more of our customers are demanding faster access. If that trend continues, lightninglink.net and many of us smaller ISP's will not be around to keep prices competitive for the enduser.

If you check the statistics, millions of Americans use small ISP's like us even though they could be using the telephone giants. Why? Because we give personal service! I've been to many of my customers' place of business and to many customers' homes. We've become a person at the other end instead of a non-caring corporate giant.

The answer is for the FCC to make a good faith effort to uncover the discrimination (whether it is in pricing or provisioning) and put an end to it. Until the FCC has demonstrated that it is willing to allow real competition in the marketplace, any talk about lifting the rules for monopolistic phone companies should not be on the agenda!

Competition keeps the big guys honest!

Sincerely,

Stewart White
1433 Gulf-to-Bay Blvd. Suite H
Clearwater, FL 33755